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**IN THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

**In the Matter of  
PETITION TO AMEND ARIZONA  
RULES OF CRIMINAL  
PROCEDURE TO ADOPT  
MODEL VETERANS TREATMENT  
COURT RULES OF PROCEDURE**

**Supreme Court No. R-19-0007**

**MOTION TO WITHDRAW RULE  
PETITION R-19-0007**

Petitioners, Barbara Atwood and Timothy Berg, Commissioners with the Uniform Law Commission, respectfully move to withdraw their Petition to adopt the Model Veterans Treatment Court Rules of Procedure (MVTCR).

Petitioners filed the Petition to assist the veterans treatment courts that are already operating in Arizona and to promote the establishment of new veterans treatment courts in counties where they do not yet exist. The goal of these courts is to connect veterans who are accused of low-level criminal activity with treatment

programs for rehabilitation and to help restore the veterans as active, contributing members of their community. As stated in the Petition, Arizona has been a leader in the veterans treatment court movement.

Both before and after filing the Petition, Petitioners undertook outreach efforts. Pre-filing outreach efforts resulted in informal and limited feedback that was positive for moving forward with the MVTCR, with some helpful suggestions being offered as well. Post-filing outreach efforts, however, have revealed significant concerns in opposition to going forward with the Petition at this time. The concerns include the need for more comprehensive discussions with judicial officers and others involved in Arizona's existing veterans treatment courts and the desire to have rules more closely tailored to Arizona practice. Accordingly, Petitioners respectfully move to withdraw their Petition

In filing this Motion, Petitioners continue to recognize the critical need for ongoing efforts to help expand veterans treatment courts in Arizona, both in the number of veterans participating and in the number of courts undertaking a veterans treatment court program. The outreach efforts and stakeholder feedback on the MVTCR and the Petition confirm that greater information sharing is essential. At present, local courts must rely largely on word of mouth when considering how best to establish and implement a veterans treatment court program. The need for more accessible resources is clear.

Accordingly, Petitioners encourage the Arizona Supreme Court to establish a Task Force to examine how to compile and make available resources regarding veterans treatment courts through both a clearinghouse concept (including best practices, lessons learned, and administrative order or rule guidance for establishing such courts) and through educational efforts. While we hope that the MVTCR would be a central part of such an undertaking, we recognize more generally the need for a Task Force in order for Arizona to remain a leader in the veterans treatment court movement, for the benefit of our veterans and the public at large.

Respectfully submitted February 25, 2019.

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